

## 2014 Career and Technical Education Month PA Announcements

### General

Career and technical education can prepare you for a wide range of careers and further educational opportunities. Varying levels of education – including industry-recognized credentials, postsecondary certificates, and two- and four-year degrees connect to these careers. Check out the career and technical education choices in your course description information.

Do you have a Twitter account? There's so much to learn about Career and Technical Education simply by following @WisTechColleges on Twitter or look up WisTechColleges on Facebook. Following the colleges on Facebook and Twitter will provide you with a lot of valuable insight as you begin to pursue your after-high-school options.

Last year Wisconsin's 16 technical colleges around the state graduated over 27,000 students. The median salary for these graduates was \$32,262. If you are interested in being among this group; log on to [WiTechColleges.org](http://WiTechColleges.org).

Approximately 14 million students participated in college CTE programs in high school or college last year. Visit your school website to see if you can be among this impressive number of students.

Did you know there are 16 Technical Colleges in Wisconsin where you can continue your education? (NAME OF LOCAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE) is the one in your area. Check out their website at [www.](http://www.).

According to the U.S. Department of Education, almost all high school students take at least one career and technical education course, and one in four students take three or more courses in a single program area. Consider which career and technical education courses complete your program of study.

Did you know you can earn technical college credits while still in high school? The term is **articulation or dual credit**. Stop by the guidance office today to find out more. Start your college career with credits!

Did you know that in 2011, technical college graduates landed jobs in their program area within six months of graduation? In many cases employers recruited them before graduation. Check with your career and technical education teacher today for more information.

In the United States one third of college students are involved in career and technical education programs, and as many as 40 million adults engage in short-term occupational training. Check out the college information in your local school. You can find it: (NAME OF LOCAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE).

Career and technical education is the forefront of preparing students to be “college and career ready.” CTE programs can equip you with core academic skills, employability skills, and job-specific technical skills related to a specific career pathway. Consider what skills are necessary for your dream career.

Students who complete a rigorous academic core coupled with a career concentration are more likely to pursue college and are less likely to drop out in the first year. Visit a technical college or university to witness successful students in action.

Career and technical education students significantly report that they developed problem-solving, project completion, research, math, college application, work-related, communication, time management, and critical thinking skills during high school. Talk with CTE students to hear about their experiences.

With a CTE related associate degree, you will earn an average of between \$5,000 and \$15,000 more a year than a person with a humanities or social sciences associate degree – and those with credentials in high-demand fields such as healthcare can average almost \$20,000 more a year. Go to <http://www.dwd.wisconsin.gov> for more information.

Did you know that prior to the official beginning of vocational education; Benjamin Franklin cited the need for a practical component of education. To learn more about the history of career and technical education, go to <http://www.acteonline.org>.

Wisconsin high schools have courses in Career and Technical Education. That amazing statistic shows that Wisconsin is taking a lead in preparing students for a productive workforce and successful careers. Read your course description information carefully to see how your school district is preparing you for your future career.

Wisconsin high school students may enroll in technical college courses through a variety of options. Check with our school counselor(s) to learn more about earning technical college credit while in high school.

You have heard of university four-year degrees, but there could be a shorter plan in your future. There are two-year, one-year and even shorter degree and diploma programs at the 16 technical colleges in Wisconsin? Four-year colleges aren't for everyone. Learn more at [WITechColleges.org](http://WITechColleges.org) or at (NAME OF LOCAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE).

## **Specific Program Areas**

Did you know that 3 out of 4 health care workers in Wisconsin are educated in the Technical College System? From dental hygiene to surgical technician to sonography, they can all be found at [WITechColleges.org](http://WITechColleges.org) or at (NAME OF LOCAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE).

Have you considered a career in health sciences? You might automatically think of doctors and nurses, but consider medical assistants, medical secretaries, EMTs, physical and occupational therapists, radiation technicians, behavioral health specialists, and many more. To learn more about careers in health care, check out [WiCareerPathways.org](http://WiCareerPathways.org).

Careers in information technology with jobs like computer network analysis or programming represent the fastest growing job categories anywhere in the United States and the world. There is a shortage so you could be in demand! If you enjoy social networking and use of ipads, iphones, and ipods, a career in information technology may be for you.

Careers as registered nurse and licensed practical nurse, dental assistants and hygienists, medical assistants, and radiology technicians are among the most “in demand” occupations in Wisconsin? Set up an account on [WiCareerPathways.org](http://WiCareerPathways.org) to get started on courses for a career in healthcare.

Careers as accountants and auditors, network systems and data communications analysts, executive secretaries and administrative assistants, computer systems analysts, administrative services managers, and computer software engineers are among the most “in demand” occupations in Wisconsin? Talk with our business and information technology teacher(s) to determine the coursework necessary to start you on your way to a career in business.

CTE stands for Career and Technical Education; many courses you are taking can help you when entering more than 520 programs in the Technical College System. One example is becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant or CNA. Stop by and visit with your counselor to learn more.

Have you ever thought about a career in Early Childhood, Construction, Health, Marketing, Graphic Arts, Culinary Arts, or Hospitality, Recreation and Tourism? The Technical College System has programs in all of these areas. Visit with your counselor(s) to find out more.

Here is a quick career story... After graduating from the Mechanical Design Technology program at Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College, Casandra Baer continued her education at UW-Stout in engineering technology. Soon after, Casandra had an internship program conducting research at the NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland. Technical education was a stepping-stone to her career dreams.

What do Global Business, Casino Management, Fashion Marketing, Real Estate and Tourism and Travel Management all have in common? They are all Associate Degree programs offered at Wisconsin technical colleges. Check with your Career and Technical Education teacher for more information.

Careers as social and community service managers, elementary and middle school teaching, and food service workers are “in demand” in Wisconsin. Talk with your family and consumer sciences teacher to determine the coursework necessary to start you on your way to a career with school and community services.

The Technical College System has programs called Accounting Assistant, Horticulture Assistant, Diesel Equipment Mechanic and Dental Assistant; do you know what they all have in common?? They are all One-Year Technical Diplomas. To find out what that really means, check with a Career and Technical Education teacher today.

Careers as human resource managers, sales managers, purchasing agents, public relations specialists, and insurance sales agents are among the most “in demand” in Wisconsin? Talk with your marketing management and entrepreneurship teacher to determine the coursework necessary to start you on your way to a career in sales and marketing.

Careers as truck drivers and heavy equipment operators; construction laborers; heating, air conditioning and refrigerator mechanics; industrial engineers; construction trade managers; machine tool operators; industrial machinery mechanics; and operating engineers are among the most “in demand” occupations in Wisconsin? Talk with your technology and engineering teacher to determine the coursework necessary to start you on your way to a career in engineering and technology.

Did you know the average wage for a radiography graduate from the Technical College System is more than \$41,000? If you would like to learn more, log on to [WITechColleges.org](http://WITechColleges.org).

Careers as food producers, landscapers, and veterinary technicians are among the most “in demand” occupations in Wisconsin? Talk with your agriculture and natural resources teacher to determine the coursework necessary to start you on your way to a career in agriculture.

Some courses in Agriculture and Natural Resources, Technology and Engineering, and Family and Consumer Sciences qualify for credit toward high school graduation. Ask your school counselor or teachers in those programs for more information.

Did you know if you are an animal lover, you could pursue a career doing what you love? The Vet Tech Program is a great place to start. Contact your school counselor(s) for more information on the education to get there.

You could become a Dental Hygienist in two years and 9 of the 16 Technical Colleges offer the program. The median **hourly salary** is \$24. Give it some thought!

## CTSO

Career and technical student organizations like DECA, FBLA, FCCLA, FFA, HOSA, and SkillsUSA are an integral part of career and technical education. Talk with your career

and technical education teachers to find out which career and technical student organizations are available in your school.

Career and technical education student organizations prepare young people to become productive citizens and leaders in their communities by providing unique programs of career and leadership development, motivation, and recognition for students enrolled, or previously enrolled, in career and technical education programs.

The more students that participate in CTE student organizations like DECA, FBLA, FCCLA, FFA, HOSA, and SkillsUSA activities, the higher their academic motivation, academic engagement, grades, career planning and college aspirations. Get involved in a career and technical student organization in your school.

Career and technical student organizations do community service projects that benefit such charities as Habitat for Humanity, local food pantries, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Autism Speaks, Friends for Health in Haiti, March of Dimes, Children's Miracle Network, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Bringing Hope to Others, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Special Olympics, No Child Hungry-Share Our Strength, and Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Use your talents and skills to get involved in a career and technical student organization today.

Career and technical student organizations like DECA, FBLA, FCCLA, FFA, HOSA, and SkillsUSA provide millions of dollars in scholarships to qualifying members at the state, national, and international levels. That is a lot of money! Talk with your chapter advisor to see what scholarships are available for you.

### **Specific to February Career and Technical Education Month**

February is Career and Technical Education month; do you have a program of study created? Now is the time to start planning for the future. Check with one of your teachers today or log on to [www.WIcareerpathways.org](http://www.WIcareerpathways.org) to start planning.

Nearly one-third of the fastest growing occupations will require a technical education degree or diploma, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. February is Career and Technical Education Month, a great time to consider technical education as part of your career path.

In a rough economy, many 4-year college grads are having trouble finding jobs. There are lots of jobs out there – they just need some skills. CTE Month is a great time for you to consider Career and Technical education. High school is a great place to start. Take a CTE course and see if it's right for you.

What will you be doing after high school? CTE Month is time to remember that the most successful individuals are often the ones who love what they do. Follow your passion.

Prepare for a career you will love. Visit [WITechColleges.org](http://WITechColleges.org) to see the wide range of technical careers that are available and the money you can make.

February is Career and Technical Education Month -- a great time to explore technical careers as an option. [WITechColleges.org](http://WITechColleges.org) has career descriptions and even videos for many of the educational programs they offer. Visit [WITechColleges.org](http://WITechColleges.org) to find out more.

The preparation of great food starts with technical education. February is CTE Month, a perfect time to recognize some of the best chefs in the state, like Milwaukee's Paul Bartolotta, who has a successful chain of restaurants in Wisconsin and has cooked for Jimmy Kimmel on his show. Restaurants create jobs in Wisconsin ranks three on the list among the state's fastest-growing industries. The Food Services industry is the largest private-sector employer in the state which accounts for 254,100 jobs in Wisconsin. One in 10 working Wisconsinites is a restaurant employee.

Do you want to own your own business? Brothers Jeff and Brian Weiser are graduates of the Wood Tech program at Western Technical College. They began as apprentice carpenters and now own their own contracting business. During Career and Technical Education Month this February, consider pursuing a career through technical education. Career and Technical Education Month is a great time to think about the many careers offered at Wisconsin's 16 technical colleges, like Laura Moore did. Laura pursued broadcast captioning. Margaret Kraft followed her passion as a pharmacy technician and Jason Timm used his Nuclear Technology degree in biomedical research. Visit [WITechColleges.org](http://WITechColleges.org) to explore hundreds of technical college program majors.

Hey students, February is Career and Technical Education Month in Wisconsin -- a great time for you to consider your future. Some of the newest technical careers are in renewable energies. Wisconsin's Technical Colleges offer the hottest educational programs in wind and solar energy. Go to [WITechColleges.org](http://WITechColleges.org) to find out more on these and other exciting technical careers.